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QUESTION- DISCUSS SECONDARY SOURCES OF LAW IN NIGERIA.

There are a plathora of other sources of Nigerian law. These are mainly in a documentary form. They are important because it is in book form that writer law are stated. Secondary sources of law are only mad use of whenever there are no primary sources of law to fall back on. Some of the secondary sources of law include

1. Law reports
2. Textbooks and treaties
3. Periodicals, Journals and Legal Digests
4. Casebooks
5. Legal Dictionaries
6. Newspapers
   1. Law reports as well as an efficient law reporting system are essential for smooth system of judicial administration. This is because in any nation where the principle of judicial precedent is operational, like Nigeria, it is only by reference to reported cases that courts and lawyers would be able to ascertain the position of law in their areas of jurisdiction. The oldest species of law reports are the Yearbooks (1282-1537). They are regarded as the most comprehensive reports but are criticised to have been mere notes taken by students and practioners of law for educational or professional purposes. The first form of law reports in Nigeria was the Nigerian Law Report (NLR) which emerged in 1881 but today they have become extinct. One regrettable trend in law reporting system in Nigeria is the lack of sustainability. This has been the experience with most government and private initiatives in this regard. Other law reports in Nigeria include Nigerian Weekly Law Reports (NWLR), All Nigerian Law Reports (ALL NLR), Federation Weekly Law Reports.
   2. Law texts, books and treaties- A textbook or treatise written by learned scholars and jurists constitute a very important source of Nigerian Law. It is the same experience in virtually all legal systems. Classical authors of outstanding textbooks on the English law include Bracton; Coke and Blackstone. Others like Dicey; Chesire; Hood Philip; Wade have continued to emerge over the years.
   3. Periodicals, Journals and Legal Digests- these are produced in various forms and colours in Nigeria. Some are professional while some are academic, yet some are an admixture of both. For instance, in Nigeria, there exist learned Journals published by different law faculties as well as private law publishers. Digest s are equally available for example, the Digest is Supreme Court Cases. Digest are abridgement of cases, that is they are useful summaries of the facts, issues, argument and decisions in judicial proceedings.

Some foreign legal dictionaries are available in Nigeria. Some of these are Jowitt's Dictionary of English Law, Stroud’s Judicial Dictionary,Black's Law Dictionary,Ballentine's Dictionary etc

All the above provide helpful guidance in interpreting Nigerian Law .

Reference- Introduction to Nigerian Legal Method edited by Abiola Sanni